

# Color Country *Fire Management*

Bureau of Land Management AZ

Dixie National Forest

Utah, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Bureau of Land Management UT

Zion and Bryce National Parks

Bureau of Indian Affairs

---



## 2019

## Color Country Interagency

## Fire Management Area

## Operating Plan



## 2019 Operating Plan

### COLOR COUNTRY INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT AREA

---

James Williams, Superintendent, Southern Paiute Agency

Date

---

Michael J. Herder, District Manager, BLM Arizona Strip District Office

Date

---

Ahmed Mohsen, District Manager, BLM Color Country District Office

Date

---

Danon Hulet, Area Manager, State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Date

---

Angelita Bullets, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest

Date

---

Linda Mazzu, Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park

Date

**When all signature blocks are completed, this plan is approved including all attachments and appendixes. This plan will remain in effect until superseded.**

## Color Country Operating Plan Attachments and Appendices

1. IDENTIFICATION OF LANDS .....	4
2. AUTHORITY FOR PLAN .....	4
3. PURPOSE OF PLAN.....	4
4. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK .....	5
5. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS.....	7
6. FIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION.....	10
7. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES .....	11
8. FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION:.....	17
9. FIRE INTELLIGENCE:.....	17
10. FIRE PLANNING .....	18
11. HAZARD FUEL MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE .....	19
12. GENERAL PROCEDURES .....	20
13. ADMINISTRATIVE LISTINGS .....	20

Attachment #1	Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Map
Attachment #2	Shared Fire Group Frequencies
Attachment #3	Fire Management Guidelines for Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument
Attachment #4	Fire Management Guidelines for the Mojave Desert Ecosystem
Attachment #5	Operational Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
Attachment #6	Technical Guidelines for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
Attachment #7	Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics
Attachment #8	Color Country Fire Danger Operating Plan
Appendix: A	Color Country Fire Information & Education Committee Charter
Appendix: B	Color Country Operations Committee Charter
Appendix: C	Color Country Fuels Committee Charter
Appendix: D	Color Country Interagency Fire Center – MOU
Appendix E	Color Country Fire Management Resources
Appendix F	Color Country Crew Guidelines and Dispatching Policy
Appendix G	Color Country Incident Business Administration Plan
Appendix H	Color Country Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Guidelines
Appendix I	Incorporated Jurisdiction Operations Protocols
Appendix J	Evacuation & Highway Protocols
Appendix K	Color Country Mobilization Guide
Appendix L	Color Country Interagency Type III SOP's
Appendix M	Color Country Training Committee Charter
Appendix N	Cache Incident SOP
Appendix O	IFM Charter
Appendix P	IFMB Charter
Appendix Q	Delegation of Fire Management Authority
Appendix R	Aerial Application of Fire Retardant On The Dixie National Forest

# **2019 OPERATING PLAN**

## **COLOR COUNTRY**

### ***INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT AREA***

#### **1. IDENTIFICATION OF LANDS**

This Operating Plan (OP), covers the lands administered by the following agencies:

Dixie National Forest, Color Country District Office Bureau of Land Management, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District Office including Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monuments Bureau of Land Management, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, Pipe Spring National Monument, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Southern Paiute Agency of Bureau of Indian Affairs, and State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands acting for Kane, Beaver, Garfield, Iron, and Washington Counties as well as multiple municipalities under cooperative agreement.

#### **2. AUTHORITY FOR PLAN**

As provided in the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of Interior and United States Department of Agriculture, dated January, 1943, and Cooperative Agreements and Amendments between agencies, as follows:

Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement for Fire Management between the following agencies:

- The State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, hereinafter called the State; and
- The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, through the Regional Forester for Region 4, Intermountain Region, and
- The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Intermountain Region, and
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mountain and Prairie Region, and
- The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Regional Office, Southwestern Regional Office, and Navajo Regional Office, and
- The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, through the State Director for Utah.

#### **3. PURPOSE OF PLAN**

The purpose of this OP is to document agreement and commitment to fire management assistance and cooperation. This plan is also designed to set forth a framework for building and assessing an interagency organization and approach to

all aspects of fire management within the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area (CCIFMA). This agreement is entered into by and between the agencies listed above. This plan authorizes fire management activities by the above parties, on all Federal, State, and Tribal Trust Lands identified above.

This organization will be continually assessed for efficiency and effectiveness and adjusted as needed to appropriately provide fire protection assistance and cooperation.

#### **4. MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

##### **A. Leadership**

**Interagency Fire Management Board (Board)**, consisting of:

- Bureau of Land Management Color Country District Manager
- Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strip District Manager
- Dixie National Forest Supervisor
- Bryce Canyon National Park Superintendent
- Southern Paiute Agency Superintendent
- Southwest Area Manager, State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

The Board will provide overall direction for interagency fire organization and operations, and be the signatories to this, the Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Operating Plan. The fire management board represents all line officers listed below for their respective agencies.

**Line Officers**, consisting of the

- Dixie National Forest: Forest Supervisor, Pine Valley, Cedar City, Powell, and Escalante District Rangers
- BLM, Color Country District: District Manager, Cedar City Field Office, St George Field Office, and Kanab Field Office Managers, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument - Monument Manager,
- BLM, Arizona Strip District: District Manager, Arizona Strip Field Office Manager, and Grand Canyon-Parashant and Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Managers,
- National Park Service: Zion and Bryce Canyon National Park Superintendents, Cedar Breaks and Pipe Spring National Monument Superintendents, Glen Canyon NRA Superintendent,
- Bureau of Indian Affairs: Southern Paiute Agency Superintendent, Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah and Kaibab Paiute Tribe
- State of Utah: Division of Wildlife Resources, State Institutional Trust Lands Regional Managers, Beaver, Garfield, Kane, Iron, Washington County Commissioners and the mayors of participating municipalities via the Southwest Area Manager, DFFSL

The line officers will provide first-line direction and guidance for the fire management organization and operations on their unit or political subdivision consistent with the

contents of this document.

**Fire Managers**, consisting of the

- Bureau of Land Management Color Country District FMO
- Bureau of Land Management Arizona Strip District FMO
- United States Forest Service Dixie National Forest FMO
- National Park Service Utah Parks Group FMO
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Paiute Agency FMO
- State of Utah, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands Southwest Area FMO

The respective agency fire managers will provide direct day-to-day coordination of interagency fire organization operations and communicate status of prescribed and wild fire activity to Color Country Interagency Fire Center (CCIFC).

**Fire Management Officers** are responsible for coordinating fire management efforts across jurisdictional lines with federal, state, and local agencies.

**Assistant Fire Management Officers/Fire Operations Supervisors**

(AFMO's/FOS's) work under the direct supervision of an FMO or Zone FMO and assist in fire preparedness and management activities. AFMO's/FOS's have other resource responsibilities and may be directed and supervised by other managers in those activities.

**County Fire Wardens** work under the direct supervision of the Southwest Area FMO and assist in fire preparedness and suppression activities on non-Federal lands within their assigned county. County Fire Wardens (CFW) are cooperative employees with the assigned county and are the local liaison to the emergency services resources in the county.

**Local Multi-Agency Coordinating Group** (LMAC Group) includes representatives from the agencies within the Color Country area or their delegated acting. Representatives include:

- Arizona Strip BLM FMO
- Color Country BLM FMO
- Dixie National Forest FMO
- Forestry, Fire & State Lands, Southwest Area FMO
- Southern Paiute Agency FMO
- National Park Service Utah Parks Group FMO
- Color Country Interagency Fire Center Manager

The MAC Group will follow the operating guidelines described in the attached appendix I.

B. Dispatching and Logistics

The **Color Country Interagency Fire Center Manager** is responsible for supervision of the fire center operations and is charged with independently acting in wildland fire management and emergencies. The CCIFC Manager will commit resources (people, equipment, and aircraft) to meet initial response needs. The CCIFC Manager will coordinate between the local area dispatch centers, Great Basin Coordination Center (GBCC), and the Color Country local MAC Group.

The **South Zone Interagency Logistics Coordinator** is responsible for supervision of the logistic operations for the South Zone. The Logistics Coordinator will supply and support resources (equipment and logistical support for resources) to meet initial response and extended attack needs as assigned by CCIFC.

The **Zion National Park Dispatch Supervisor** is responsible for supervision of the dispatch operations (other than wildland fire), within the park and is charged with independently acting, as needed in Ranger support, search and rescue, and law enforcement situations. The Dispatch Supervisor will commit resources (people, equipment, and aircraft) to meet law enforcement and search and rescue needs. All aircraft orders will be coordinated with CCIFC.

The **Richfield Interagency Fire Center (RIFC)** will dispatch resources to private and state owned lands located in Beaver County within the boundaries of the Beaver Ranger District of the Fishlake National Forest. RIFC will coordinate all actions on these lands with the Beaver County Fire Warden and the SW Area FMO. RIFC will report all statistical fire information to CCIFC and the SW Utah FFSL FMO.

## 5. DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

### A. Fire Protection Responsibilities:

The CCIFMA map will identify fire protection responsibilities. The closest forces within the jurisdiction or from adjacent jurisdictions will be used for initial response on all incidents, consistent with existing cooperative agreements, guidelines, and practices. The wildland fire resource(s) (personnel, equipment, and aircraft) which is available to reach the incident first will be considered the closest resource (regardless of which Agency the resource(s) belong and which Agency has protection responsibility).

In the State of Utah, Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) resources may be dispatched in addition to the closest federal resource. Local fire department resources may also be dispatched by the counties to reported incidents within or near their protection jurisdiction. The FFSL and local fire department resources will not be counted against the CCIFC run card if they are not the closest resource and/or are not requested to remain on scene and assist.

Because of the partnership the State has with each of the counties and many of the municipalities, the county 911 dispatch centers tracks and dispatches the CFW and State engines in that county. The CFWs and State engines will also coordinate and



receive dispatching and tracking from CCIFC. The State resources will assure that information flow between CCIFC and the county dispatch is timely and accurate to avoid duplication and provide effective coordination of resource response.

CCIFC is responsible for over-all Color Country wildfire and prescribed fire dispatching excluding incorporated jurisdictions. CCIFC serves as the sole area contact point with GBCC, provides daily fire weather collection and dissemination, and coordinates situation reporting for the CCIFMA into national fire intelligence systems. See the Color Country Mobilization Guide for additional information.

Primary responsibility for fire protection of private, municipal and county owned lands in Utah lies with the county or municipality under Title 11-7-1 of the Utah Code. They operate fire departments and/or fire districts to carry out their statutory responsibility. In addition, all of the counties and many of the municipalities in SW Utah are under a cooperative agreement with the State of Utah for wildfire protection as provided in Title 65A-8-203 of the Utah Code. Under this cooperative agreement the counties and the municipalities are responsible to perform initial attack and abate the wildfire hazard on non-federal lands within their jurisdiction as provided in Title 65A-8-202 and 202.5 of the Utah Code.

#### Counties

In all five counties, the state shares employees and equipment in a cost share with the counties. The CFW and engines are part of the county's initial attack organization in which the county is financially responsible. Under the terms of the cooperative agreement when a fire escapes initial attack the State assumes operational control and financial responsibility.

#### Municipalities

Many municipalities are under cooperative agreement with the State. The municipalities are responsible for initial attack on non-federal lands within their jurisdiction. The CFW and state engines are not part of their IA organization. However the wildland agencies may provide mutual aid to these entities. If a fire escapes initial attack the municipality may sign a Delegation of Authority form (Appendix Q) if one of more of the four triggers are met:

1. State and or federal land are involved
2. Requested by the local fire official on scene
3. Resources are ordered from an interagency fire center beyond the initial attack run card
4. At the discretion of the State Forester, after consultation with local officials

In all cases Unified Command with the local jurisdiction will be established.

#### All Non-Federal Lands

Fire protection and suppression requirements for the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) have increased significantly. This increased need has prompted expanded efforts of coordination and cooperation between all fire agencies local, state, and federal. This is critical for effective protection of life and property within these areas. All



agencies must recognize their respective roles and capabilities; and cooperate with each other to fully implement the goals and objectives for the incident. Immediate implementation of ICS and NIMS protocol is essential to the overall effectiveness of this coordination. Every effort will be made to establish a Unified Command under ICS promptly and coordinate to the maximum extent whenever interface fires occur. A wildfire involving structures will be responded to by the protecting agency in accordance with their training, equipment, and agency policies. Structural fire suppression is the responsibility of the respective town or city, county, fire protection district, or qualified National Park Service personnel.

Recognizing the need for safety and training for all individuals engaged in wildland fire management (including full-time and volunteer fire departments), all agencies involved in this OP will undertake a cooperative effort to develop and promote such requirements. The State and Federal agencies will continue to require and provide training and equipment consistent with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards. Participating fire departments will be encouraged to meet standards for training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outlined in NFPA 295 and 1051 and other pertinent nationally recognized documents. Fire departments working on fires on federal and state lands shall be procured by and operate under the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding between FFSL and qualified fire departments/districts. The fire departments will be required to meet the requirements outlined in the terms of the Utah Wildfire Resource MOU with FFSL and the associated fire department handbook issued by the state.

When interagency fire management resources are working with local fire department personnel, they will be cognizant of the local department's statutory responsibilities for fire protection and will be diplomatic regarding related political sensitivities. When fire departments are used by State and Federal agencies on lands not under the local fire department's statutory authority, the State and Federal agencies may require a higher standard of training and safety than that of the fire department. Subsequently, the federal agencies may request that a fire department provide personnel that are qualified to NWCG standards on federal lands.

See Appendix I for operational protocols.

- B. Direct Protection of Lands:  
Protection of lands is by jurisdictional boundary and use of closest resources.
- C. Protection Boundary:  
The CCIFMA is defined by jurisdictional boundaries as shown in Attachment #1, Color Country Interagency Fire Management Area Map.
- D. Special Management Considerations:

Numerous areas in Color Country have special considerations for fire management identified in land management planning documents or other planning documents. The agency having jurisdiction should provide specific guidance to follow for all fire

management activities in or near these areas. Examples of the more common of these areas are listed below. Fire managers should always check with the appropriate agency personnel for any unique or special situations requiring additional consideration.

- Designated Wilderness Areas
- Wilderness Study Areas
- Sage Grouse Habitat
- Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Lands
- Desert Tortoise Habitat (Washington Co. Utah and Mohave Co. Arizona)
- Utah Prairie Dog Habitat (Garfield, Iron & Beaver Co.)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Roadless Areas
- Research Natural Areas
- Archeological sites
- Retardant use on Forest Service and Park Service lands

E. Responsibility for All Risk Incidents:

Responsibility for All Risk Incidents remains with the county in which the incident occurs. All risk incident requests will be coordinated through CCIFC as defined in the Color Country Mobilization Guide and coordinated with the receiving county. Funding reimbursement for assistance resources provided is generally coordinated by FEMA and the State Division of Emergency Management at the time of the incident.

F. Repair of Suppression Damage:

Resource damage due to suppression actions such as repairs/rehab of fences, dozer lines, roads, etc. will be coordinated between involved agencies. Repair/rehab of these items will generally be completed prior to the final demobilization of resources from the incident.

When natural resource damage is anticipated, the federal jurisdictional agencies may order a Burned Area Rehabilitation Team (BAER) prior to control of the fire. All BAER team operations will be coordinated with the Incident Commander prior to any BAER operations.

G. Duty Officers

Duty Officers (DO), are identified as the primary contact for an agency or area. They have the responsibility for knowing where all resources are within their area of responsibility and for making decisions on prioritization and resource placement. Duty Officers are FMOs or designated by delegation to those qualified by agency policies.

## 6. FIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

A. Resources: (ICS type)

Each party to this plan shall status resources in the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS). Updates will occur as defined in the Color Country Mobilization Guide.

B. Location of Resources: See Appendix E

C. Anticipated Resource Activation Period:

Agency	Start	End
CDC BLM	5/1	10/31
FS	5/1	9/30
NPS	5/1	9/30
ASD BLM	4/15	9/30
BIA	5/16	9/30
State	5/1	10/31

D. Jurisdictional Resources: See Appendix E

## 7. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. Fire Notification:

Agency Duty Officers will be notified immediately by the CCIFC of incidents occurring on or adjacent to their respective jurisdictions.

CCIFC will notify the appropriate DOs of the commitment of resources from their jurisdiction.

County dispatch centers (911) will be notified of fires on or threatening any private lands.

Any change of initial attack resource availability and/or status must be reported to CCIFC by the DO.

B. Establishment and Revision of Mutual Aid Dispatch Areas: See Section 23A in the Statewide Master Agreement.

C. Determination of initial attack dispatch levels: Initial attack dispatch levels are determined using the NFDRS indices computed by WIMS on a daily basis. See Color Country Interagency National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) planning guide ([Attachment #8](#)) for details.

#### D. Fire Investigations:

The party that takes initial attack action on human or suspicious caused fires on lands under jurisdiction of another party will immediately initiate a fire trespass investigation and documentation. As soon as practical, the agency with jurisdictional responsibility will assume responsibility for the trespass investigation.

#### E. Boundary Fires Including Unified Command and Cost Sharing:

Definitions of a boundary Fire:

1. A fire burning jointly on lands of both parties and the boundary line is known.
2. Where the fire location is known but the jurisdictional boundary is uncertain.

Actions:

Where the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the jurisdictional boundary the following actions will be taken. Once the exact location of the fire is determined in relation to the jurisdictional boundary, it ceases to be a boundary fire unless falling into definition 1 above.

The resource receiving a report of a fire where the boundary location is not known, will promptly take initial actions and notify CCIFC about the potential status as a boundary fire for notification of the other jurisdictions. The jurisdictions concerned will coordinate initial action plans or in some cases determine which party will take initial action.

If jurisdictional responsibility is in doubt, or the fire involves more than one agency, agencies concerned will agree on using the principles of Unified Command. If the field personnel cannot reach an agreement in determining who will serve as the Incident Commander in a reasonable amount of time, the next higher supervisory level will designate the Incident Commander.

For extended attack fires and boundary fires between Federal Agencies and the State of Utah and its political subdivisions, a written agreement must be developed that defines cost sharing between agencies. A written cost share agreement will be prepared at the time the incident goes into extended attack, or independent actions on the land protected by another exceed the limits of the minimum billing threshold as identified in the Utah Statewide Master Agreement and OP.

Level of authority needed to authorize (sign) cost sharing agreements:

<b>BLM</b>	<b>NPS</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>BIA</b>	<b>State Of Utah</b>
District Manager, Field Manager, FMO	Park Superintendent	Forest Supervisor	Agency Superintendent	Area Manager or Area FMO

#### F. Fires with the Potential to Cross into Neighboring Jurisdictions and Cost Sharing:

##### Definition:

Some portions of a wildfire may receive protection objectives while other portions are managed for other objectives based on agency direction. Those portions and objectives might change over the duration of the wildfire. Fires with the potential to affect more than one jurisdiction require closer coordination over a longer term.

##### Actions:

The agency that is managing a wildfire with the potential to spread onto another jurisdiction has the responsibility to engage the other jurisdictions as soon as possible in determining the future course of action for the incident. The intent should never be to allow a wildfire to burn onto a jurisdiction that does not want it. This requires that all parties be involved in developing the strategy and tactics to be used in preventing the fire from crossing the jurisdictional boundary, or that all parties be involved in developing mitigations that would be used if the fire crosses or threatens to cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Reference Statewide OP for additional information.

#### G. Multi-Jurisdictional Fires and Cost Sharing:

##### Definition of a Multi-Jurisdictional Fire:

1. A fire burning or expected to burn on lands of multiple jurisdictions.

##### Actions:

When the location of a fire is determined to be burning on or expected to be burning on multiple jurisdictions, a lead agency will be designated based on the ownership at the origin point. Any of the involved agencies may be designated as the lead as necessary upon mutual agreement of all parties.

The Lead Agency will be the primary contact for any incident management team assigned and will provide a single point of contact to simplify and streamline communications. The Lead Agency will insure that all jurisdictions are involved in decisions regarding management of the incident, including ordering higher

level/additional IMTs, and that individual agency concerns and requirements are effectively shared with the incident management team in a timely manner. The Lead Agency will engage the other agencies as early as possible when determining dates/times for in-briefings, close-outs, VIP visits, and/or public meetings are being planned. The Lead Agency will work with the other agencies in developing a strategy for the incorporation of Resource Advisors, Incident Business Advisors, and Human Resource Specialists from all agencies into the decision making and incident management process with the assigned IMT.

Partner agencies will agree with the designation of the Lead Agency and will agree to interact with the Lead Agency on all matters in a timely manner. Partner agencies will provide any specific agency needs/direction to the IMT through, or in conjunction with, the Lead Agency representative to insure continuity of communications with the assigned IMT. Partner agencies will be proactive in providing concerns, additional pertinent information, changes in designated personnel, etc. to the Lead Agency Administrator. Partner agencies will engage the Lead Agency early to gain appropriate involvement with other agencies and the IMT should agency specific evaluation groups (i.e. RMAT or similar), VIP visit requests, or other advisors require access to the incident.

As the incident evolves, any of the jurisdictional agencies may request a change to the designated Lead Agency. This decision should be made with the mutual agreement of all affected agencies, include the IMT as necessary, and the reason(s) for the change in designation well documented with an amendment to the delegation of authority to the IMT provided as needed.

In all cases, ONE Agency Administrator (AA) will be designated for each agency. The AA will be the official representative for the agency or jurisdiction. The AA shall be the sole signatory and negotiator on Delegations of Authority, Cost Share Agreements and other critical decisions such as Lead Agency designation. The AA may designate Agency Representatives (AREP) and advisors to assist with workload and technical issues. In instances that trainee AAs and coaches are assigned to the incident by an agency, they will coordinate with and work through, the single designated AA for the agency in all interactions with other agencies and/or the IMT.

#### H. Assistance by Hire and Resource Order Process:

See the CCIFMA Incident Service and Supply Plan. CCIFC will coordinate resource orders for equipment needed from private vendors when all agency equipment is committed/unavailable.

Costs associated with the repair or replacement of equipment or supplies will require a resource order (S#) and will be approved by the jurisdictional agency FMO within 30 days of incident demobilization.

Incident replacement of supplies will follow the procedures directed in the Color Country Incident Business Management Guidelines. In addition, replacements on

multi-jurisdictional incidents may require approval from multiple agency representatives and be subject to audit upon request of any affected agency.

I. Aviation:

Authority for the use of aerial resources on any jurisdiction rests with the Incident Commander and is ordered through CCIFC.

Aerial resources dispatched to non-federal lands must be on the initial attack run card or approved by the CFW, the Area FMO or Area Manager. Launch of aircraft without this approval will be considered an independent action by the ordering agency as defined in the Statewide OP and Master Agreement. The State of Utah Area Manager or FMO MUST be notified of any aircraft orders involving incorporated towns and cities.

The Agency Administrator must approve the use of aviation resources in designated Wilderness Areas or Wilderness Study Areas beyond aerial surveillance or water drops.

J. Hand Crews, Dozers and Type III Teams:

CCIFC will maintain a roster bi-weekly of available personnel for a Type 2 hand crew. The desire is to staff the crew as a Type 2 IA crew whenever possible for out of area assignments. Crews are generally available for assignment from June through September.

No use of dozers and other such earth disturbing equipment on National Park Service Lands and National Monuments, unless necessary for protection of structures/developed areas or private property, or as approved by the jurisdictional line officer. On lands not listed above, the use of dozers and other such earth disturbing equipment must be coordinated through the jurisdictional agency Duty Officer.

The CCIFMA and Central Utah Fire Management Area share the staffing and management of three Type III Incident Management Teams. These Type III Teams will be on two-week rotations through the fire season, mid-May through the end of September. The Teams will complete a fire training session or simulation exercise annually prior to being activated.

K. Interagency Sharing of Communications Systems and Frequencies:

Where applicable all agencies shall have shared radio frequencies. Each agency authorizes all other agencies party to this OP use of the frequencies listed in Attachment #2- Shared Fire Group Frequencies for fire management operations.

L. Interagency procurement, transfer of funds, loaning, sharing, or exchanging of facilities, equipment, and support services:



The Dixie National Forest, Color Country BLM, Arizona Strip BLM, Zion National Park, Southern Paiute Agency, Utah State Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands may establish agreements to exchange funds for salaries and use of equipment in fire management activities as needed between the affected agencies (see Appendix G). These agreements may be used for but not limited to:

- Interagency Helicopter support
- Prescribed Fire and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects
- Support for CCIFC and caches in Cedar City and St. George

#### M. Wildland Fire Decision Documentation:

Extended attack situations require a documented decision approved by the responsible line officer(s) if Federal land is involved. A decision is the result of a process that evaluates alternative strategies using defined safety, environmental, social, economic, political, and resource management objectives. A new documented decision will be required whenever the key elements of the existing decision have been compromised (or are expected to be compromised). The Wildland Fire Decision Support System (WFDSS) contains a suite of tools to assist fire managers and line officers in decision making and creating a decision document.

A decision is required to be documented when:

1. A wildfire has not been contained by the initial attack resources and there is no estimate of containment or control; or
2. If the suppression response consists of confine or contain strategies (and is likely to lead to a prolonged response); or
3. A wildfire is managed at least partially for other than full perimeter control objectives; or
4. A wildfire exceeds or is expected to exceed the approved planning area, is not meeting intended resource management objectives, or exceeds established air quality thresholds and the Incident Commander determines that the situation cannot be mitigated within 48 hours or mitigation measures have failed; or
5. A prescribed fire is declared a wildfire. After wildfire declaration a project may not be returned to prescribed fire status.

#### N. Post-incident reviews and close out:

Fire reviews will be conducted jointly by the agencies involved as described by agency policy. Initial response crews of cooperating agencies will provide all pertinent information to the jurisdictional agency when relieved from the fire. Cooperating agencies conducting continuing suppression activities on other agency land shall provide all necessary fire related information to the jurisdictional agency within ten (10) days after the fire is out (5 days for DOI).

After action reviews will be completed and documented on wildfire response per agency policy.

O. Joint Mobilization Centers or other incident support facilities:

Support facilities/functions deemed necessary by the CCIFC DO to support ongoing and potential incidents will be managed by the CCIFC and financially supported by the incident(s) served. These may include, but are not limited to, expanded dispatch, cache/logistics support, ground support/rental vehicle pool, and staging areas. See Color Country Mobilization Guide for details.

P. **Agreed**-to billing amounts (rates) for resources (Appendix E) and billing information for readiness activities:

Each participating agency will be responsible for the base salaries for its employees for preparedness activities. These employees will perform a variety of interagency duties as a regular part of their work. No attempt will be made to isolate cost by specific job during the base period. For extended attack fires and boundary fires, agencies must develop a written agreement that defines cost sharing between agencies on a case-by-case basis.

**8. FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION:**

The Color Country Fire Prevention and Education Committee (CCFPEC), is comprised of representatives from the state and federal agencies involved within the CCIFMA and a FMO Group representative. The minimum number of committee members will be three. The maximum number may vary to better serve the different fire management agencies under the approved charter. (See Appendix A: Fire Prevention & Education Committee Charter).

**9. FIRE INTELLIGENCE:**

1. Interagency Fire Center:

CCIFC will be the clearinghouse for all fire intelligence. CCIFC will receive and disseminate wildland fire intelligence within agencies systems. CCIFC will direct external information requests to the appropriate jurisdictional agency information contact.

2. Incidents:

- a. It is recommended that all Type III incidents be assigned an Information Officer. Some lower complexity incidents may also need an assigned Information Officer at the discretion of the IC, DO or AA.
- b. Type I and II incidents will use the information structure established on the Incident Management team in command of the incident and will coordinate with the jurisdiction agency. Joint information centers (JIC) may be used on fires that are multi-jurisdictional.
- c. When conducting prescribed fire or managing fires for other than full

perimeter control objectives, Burn Bosses or Incident Commanders/DOs will prepare an information plan according to Agency policies. These plans need to be coordinated with CCIFC and cooperators.

3. Fire danger and public notification:

When a period of severe fire weather is expected to result in a sudden and marked increase in fire danger, a "Red Flag Warning / Fire Weather Watch" will be issued by the National Weather Service. The warning will include a statement indicating the area and particular extreme conditions expected. The public will be made aware of fire conditions through multimedia public service announcements as necessary.

4. Joint Press Releases:

Joint press releases will be coordinated through the agencies having jurisdiction. Press releases will be prepared on Color Country Interagency letterhead and signed as Color Country Information Officer (CCIO). FMOs or agency administrators for the affected agencies must review and approve all press releases prior to release to the media.

Counties and municipalities are encouraged to coordinate with interagency press releases to assure accuracy of released information

## 10. FIRE PLANNING

A. Community Fire Planning (Wildland/Urban Interface):

Agencies are encouraged to use current publications which identify Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Hazard Assessment, Prevention, and Mitigation techniques for wildland urban interface areas.

Line Officers have defined interface fuels focus areas in concert with the Color Country Interagency Fire Managers. These areas are coordinated, planned and implemented through the Color Country Fuels and Prevention and Education Committees.

In Utah, the State of Utah FFSL is the lead agency when developing community and regional fire preparedness plans.

B. Railroads and Utilities:

Refer to Williams Gas (Kern River) Safety Plan at CCIFC for information and contacts when fires are near the Williams Gas transmission line. Contact the CCIFC for safety information regarding the Navajo/McCulloch electrical transmission line, Arizona One and Pine Nut, Uranium mines, Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Citation Oil Field.

## C. Enforcement

### 1. Burning and Campfire Permits:

Utah State law requires burning permits for all people who burn debris or conduct agricultural burning on private unincorporated lands during the closed fire season from **June 1 through October 31**. Request for burning permits on private unincorporated land will be referred to the respective CFW. Municipalities are encouraged to follow the state's lead. In most cases, burning is prohibited during fire season.

### 2. Restrictions and Closures:

When a fire closure or restriction is deemed necessary in the geographical area (or any portion of that area) pertaining to this OP all conditions will be mutually agreed upon by the Local MAC Group members prior to publication of the expected closure/restriction order. Procedures outlined in the statewide operating plan for fire restrictions/closures will be followed. Municipalities are encouraged to follow interagency restrictions but are not required to do so.

## D. Fire Prevention plans:

Agency specific fire prevention plans are developed as per agency policy. These plans are coordinated on an interagency basis and shared through the Prevention and Education Committee.

## E. Operations, Preparedness, Training plans:

Preparedness plans are produced by individual agencies. The Color Country planning level is defined by the criteria established in the Color Country NFDRS plan. (See Attachment #8)

The Color Country Operations Committee is made up of representatives from each agency with a FMO Group representative and is established to identify and coordinate Color Country area operational, safety and aviation issues. (See Appendix B).

The Color Country Training Committee is made up of representatives from each agency with a FMO Group representative and is established to identify and coordinate Color Country area training needs, courses and training assignments. (See Appendix M)

## 11. HAZARD FUEL MANAGEMENT AND PRESCRIBED FIRE

The Color Country Fuels Committee is made up of representatives from each agency with a FMO group representative. They coordinate hazard fuels risk rating for all "communities at risk" as identified in the Federal Register, coordinate prescribed fire and hazardous fuels

reduction project planning schedules, information, implementation dates, and priorities on an interagency basis. (See Appendix C)

## 12. GENERAL PROCEDURES

### A. Periodic reviews:

A minimum of two Fire Board meetings will be held each year.

The **spring** meeting purpose is to brief the Interagency Fire Management Board; discuss the OP, prescribed fire implementation plans, Color Country Fire School, etc. This meeting will be held each year before April 30.

This OP will be signed and distributed to all agencies by the FMO chair by May 1 annually.

The **fall** meeting purpose is to review fire season issues, CCIFC annual budget proposal, Color Country Crew evaluations and training needs, etc. This meeting will be held each year before November 30.

The date for the next meeting will be set at the end of each meeting.

The FMO chair will arrange for a place to meet, invite each agency, and arrange for minutes of the meeting to be recorded and distributed. The FMO chair will coordinate with the Interagency Fire Management Board Chair.

### B. Changes During Year (due to budget cuts or supplemental funding):

Agency FMOs will request a special meeting or time during a regularly scheduled meeting to discuss new budgetary issues which may affect CCIFMA.

### C. Severity Funding:

If severe fire condition funding is requested or is being considered for request by a specific agency, information and coordination will occur with other CCIFMA FMOs. This coordination will be conducted through the Local MAC Group.

## 13. ADMINISTRATIVE LISTINGS

Zion National Park  
State Route 9  
Springdale, UT 84767

Bryce Canyon National Park  
P.O. Box 640201  
Bryce Canyon, Utah 84764

Glen Canyon NRA and Rainbow Bridge NM  
P.O. Box 1507  
Page, Arizona 86040

Dixie National Forest  
1789 N. Wedgewood Lane  
Cedar City, UT 84721

Southwest Area Office  
Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands  
646 N. Main  
Cedar City, Utah 84721

Bureau of Land Management  
Arizona Strip District Office  
345 E. Riverside Drive  
St. George, Utah 84790

Cedar Breaks National Monument  
2370 W. Hwy. 56  
Cedar City, UT 84721

Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument  
669 South Highway 89a  
Kanab, UT 84741

Southern Paiute Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
P.O. Box 720  
St George, UT 84771

Bureau of Land Management  
Color Country District Office  
176 E. DL Sargent Dr.  
Cedar City, UT 84721

Pipe Spring National Monument  
HC 65 Box 5  
406 North Pipe Spring Road  
Fredonia, AZ 86022